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1965

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

DARTMOUTH AND TOTNES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

Guildhall,  
Dartmouth.  
March, 1966.



MEMBERS OF THE DARTMOUTH AND  
TOTNES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

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Representatives from Dartmouth Borough Council

Alderman A.J. Parrott  
Councillor F.E.W. Hewitt  
Councillor M.V.M. Keane, J.P.  
Councillor H. Osborne  
Councillor E.S. Rimmer

Representatives from Totnes Rural Council

Councillor G. Gill (Chairman)	(Dittisham)
Councillor S.G. Hearn	(Kingswear)
Councillor Miss M.E.W. Tozer	(Cornworthy)
Councillor H. Wheatley	(Stoke Gabriel)

Representative from Totnes Borough Council

Councillor F.W. Foster-Turner

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
DARTMOUTH AND TOTNES PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1965

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To the Chairman and Members

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LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

In accordance with my statutory duties I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1965.

There has been no change in the Port Health District of Dartmouth and Totnes as constituted in the year 1888 by a Provisional Order of the Local Government Board.

In this Order the limits of jurisdiction are thus laid down.

The jurisdiction of the said Port Health Authority shall extend to so much of the said Port of Dartmouth as lies between Totnes Bridge and a line drawn across the entrance to Dartmouth Harbour, from Blackstone Point to the Outer Forward Point, together with the waters of the said Port within such limits and the place or places for the time being appointed as the Customs' Boarding Station or Stations for such part of the said Port under any regulations for the prevention of the spread of disease issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and the Docks, Basins, Harbours, Creeks, Rivers, Channels, Roads, Bays and Streams belonging to that part of the said Port for which such Authority is constituted as aforesaid.

The report follows the form and sequence laid down by the Ministry of Health in Form 'Port 20' 1952.



# SECTION I - Staff

TABLE A

Name of Officer	Nature of App'tm'nt	Date of Ap'tment	Qualifi-cations	Any other Ap'tments held
A. D. Verniquet	M.O.H.	Sept. 30th 1951	M.B. Ch.B.	General Practitioner Anaesthetist Dartmouth Hospital
R. R. Gatzias	P.S.I.	June 21 1951	-	Trinity House Pilot
A. H. Wright	Clerk & Financial Off.	June 25 1950	-	Clerk and Financial Officer D'th Borough

Address and Telephone No.  
Medical Officer of Health

35 Victoria Road, Dartmouth.  
Dartmouth 2212

## SECTION II

Amount of Shipping entering the District  
during the year 1965

TABLE B

Ships from	No.	Tonnage	Number Inspected		No. of Ships rep'td as having or havg had drg vyg infect. disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector	
For'a Ports	309	17,543	10	309	Nil
Coastwise	23	6,606	3	23	Nil
Total	332	24,149	13	332	Nil

### SECTION III

#### Character of Shipping and Tonnage during the year 1965

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic	(Number of Passengers INWARDS - Nil Number of Passengers OUTWARDS - Nil)
Cargo Traffic	(Principal IMPORTS - Coal, Timber, Hardbd. Principal EXPORTS - Nil)
PRINCIPAL PORTS from which Ships arrive - Baltic, Waterford Rotterdam & Lyr	

Ships proceeding to Totnes - Total	42
With cargoes of Timber	38
with cargoes of Hardboard	4
To Kingswear - Coal for S.W.E.B.	5

Shipping entering the port has shown an increase in both number of ships (44) and tonnage (8204 tons) as compared to 1964.

#### SECTION IV - Inland Barge Traffic - Nil

#### SECTION V - Water Supply

1. Source of Supply for:
  - (a) The district - South West Devon Water Board
  - (b) Shipping - South West Devon Water Board
2. Reports of tests for contamination - Under constant sampling by Dartmouth Corporation - all tests satisfactory.
3. Precautions taken against contamination of hydrants and hosepipes - Flushed regularly and before use.
4. Number and sanitary condition of water boats and power of control by the Authority -

No water boats at present - ships requiring water obtain supplies from main water stand-pipes on shore.



## SECTION VI - Public Health (Ships) Regulations 1955

### 1. LIST OF INFECTED AREA (Regulation 6)

Circulars from Ministry of Health amended and forwarded by hand to Pilots and Customs Officers employed in the district.

### 2. RADIO MESSAGES

(a) Permission for ships to enter the Port is sent by radio through the following W/T land stations which normally handles commercial traffic, i.e. Lands End, Niton or Portishead - Regulation 13.

(b) Radio messages from ships are received by the local shipping agents by telephone through the above W/T land stations. The shipping agents contact Port M.O.H. and Port Authorities - Reg. 14(1)(a) & (2).

### 4. MOORING STATIONS (Regulation 22 to 30)

The Mooring Stations used are any part of the Harbour below Sandquay Ferry, and in case of serious infectious disease ships would be moored to the Packet Buoys until relieved of its patients and suspects and contacts seen and the ship fumigated. Ships proceeding to Totnes are always dealt with before going up river.

### 5. ARRANGEMENTS for

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than Small Pox - see section VII)

Torquay Isolation Hospital, Torquay.

(b) Surveillance and follow-up of contacts:

Contacts residing locally would be supervised by the M.O.H. and contacts going afar would give their names and destinations - the M.O.H. of the different localities would be notified of the circumstances. The Ministry of Health also would be notified immediately.

(c) Cleansing and disinfecting of ships, persons, clothing and other articles:

There is no provision for cleaning and disinfecting Ships beyond burning sulphur in infected cabins etc. No provision for cleansing or disinfecting persons. Clothing and other articles can be disinfected in the Town Disinfector.

## SECTION VII - Smallpox

- (1) Name of Isolation Hospital to which Smallpox cases are sent in the district:

First Line - Ham Green Hospital, Bristol  
County Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard

Second Line - Lee Mills Hospital, Ivybridge.

- (2) Arrangements for transport of such cases to the Hospital by ambulance, giving name of the Authority responsible for the Ambulance and the vaccinal state of the ambulance crews.

Ambulance is provided by the Plymouth Hospital Service who are responsible for the Ambulance and vaccinal state of the Ambulance crews. This is a part of the Devon County Ambulance Service. The Ambulance is contacted through the Ambulance Headquarters at Torquay.

- (3) Name of Smallpox consultant available:

Dr. W.H. St. John-Brooke, West Cornwall Hospital, Penzance.

- (4) Facilities for laboratory diagnosis of Smallpox:

The Virus Reference Laboratory, Colindale, London N.W.4.  
or through the Public Health Laboratory at Bradninch Hall, Castle Street, Exeter.

## SECTION VIII - Venereal Disease

There are no local facilities available for the diagnosis and treatment of Venereal Disease amongst Merchant Seamen.

The nearest clinic is at Torbay Hospital, Torquay.

Males - Monday 5 p.m. Females - Thursday 5 p.m.

Ships do not remain in the Port long enough for the clinics to be available.



# SECTION IX

## Cases of Notifiable and other Infectious Disease on Ships

TABLE D

Category	Disease	No. of cases during year		No. of ships concerned
		Passengers	Crew	
Cases from ships from foreign ports	-	-	-	-
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	-	-	-
Cases from other ships	-	-	-	-

# SECTION X

## Observation on the Occurrence of Malaria in Ships

NIL

# SECTION XI

## Measures taken against ships infested with, or suspected for plague

NIL

# SECTION XII

## Measures against Rodents in Ships from Foreign Ports

1. Procedure for inspection of ships in Port:  
Routine inspection of ships entering Port by Public Health Inspector.

2. Arrangements for bacteriological and pathological examination of rodents with special reference to rodent plague is carried out by the Public Health Laboratory at Exeter.

Number of rodents sent for examination during the year - NIL

3. There are no arrangements in the District for de-ratting ships.

4. Procedure in the rat proofing of ships - NIL

TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports

Black Rats	...	...	...	...	NIL
Brown Rats	...	...	...	...	NIL
Species not known	...	...	...	...	NIL
Sent for examination			...	...	NIL
Infected with plague			...	...	NIL

TABLE F

De-ratting Certificates and De-ratting Exemption Certificates issued during the year for ships from foreign ports

No. of De-ratting Certificates issued					No. of de-ratg. exempt'n Certs. issued	Total Certs Issd.
After fumigation with		After Trap'g	After Poisng.	Total		
H.C.N.	Other fumigant (state method)					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
-	-	-	-	-	-	-

# SECTION XIII - Inspection of ships for nuisances

TABLE G  
Inspection & Notices

Nature and Number of Inspections		Notices Served		Result of serving notice
		Stat'ry Notices	Inf'ml Notices	
General examination of crews' quarters, heads water supply, store rooms, hold & Bilges	332	Nil	Nil	
Total	332	-	-	

# SECTION XIV - Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934 & 1948

There are two cockle beds, one at Dittisham Beach and Stoke Gabriel Beach. No shell-fish are obtainable from the beds at present.

# SECTION XV - Medical Inspection of Aliens

Not applicable as the Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

# SECTION XVI - Miscellaneous

Arrangements for burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from one of the less serious infectious diseases, is that that body would be transferred to the local mortuary with the usual precautions. Burial would then proceed in the normal manner. Smallpox cases would have to be dealt with by the staff of the Public Health Authority with assistance from the neighbouring Authority at Torquay and staff of Torbay Isolation Hospital.

During the year 1965 the following patients were treated  
by me:

1. at the Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital

Fractured leg - 2 cases  
Cerebral Thrombosis - 1 case

2. At the surgery or at the Dartmouth and Kingswear Hospital  
as outpatients:

Upper respiratory tract infections - 6 cases  
Innoculations and vaccinations - 1 case  
Bronchitis - 1 case  
Minor Ailments - 8 cases  
Minor injuries - 6 cases

There were no cases of Venereal Disease or Infectious Disease.

All Foreshores, Quays and Jetties have been inspected and  
found satisfactory.

Sewer outfalls satisfactory or under surveillance.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

A. D. VERNIQUET, M.B., Ch.B.

Port Medical Officer of Health.







